

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 IOE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AF-08 EA-07

EUR-12 NEA-10 /097 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9642

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 2242

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, RQ, TD

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF 24 CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO

REF: (A) STATE 211970, (B) PORT OF SPAIN 2239

1. LAST EVENING, AUGUST 31, I LEARNED FROM FOREIGN MINISTER JOSEPH THAT HE HAD DELIVERED TELEX OF GOVERNOR COLON'S LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT HE HAD NOT SEEN A COPY OF THE LETTER; SO THIS MORNING I PROCEEDED TO HIS OFFICE AND LET HIM READ THE GOVERNOR'S LETTER AND EXPLAINED TO HIM WHAT A SERIOUS MATTER THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED THE PUERTO RICAN ISSUE TO BE. IN ADDITION, I USED THE ISLAND OF TOBAGO AS AN EXAMPLE TO POINT OUT THAT IF THE SAME THING WERE BEING DONE TO TOBAGO AS WAS BEING DONE TO PUERTO RICO, THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO GOVERNMENT WOULD CERTAINLY ASK FOR OUR ASSISTANCE.

2. THE PERMANENT SECRETARY, MR. SEIGNORET, SAT IN ON THE MEETING AND AFTERWARDS ACCOMPANIED ME TO THE DOOR OF THE BUILDING AND REMARKED THAT HE WAS VERY GLAD THAT I HAD HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO PERSONALLY PRESENT COLON'S
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LETTER TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND TO DISCUSS

THE MATTER WITH HIM.

3. PRIOR TO MY MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER, I CALLED UPON THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, ERROL MAHABIR. HE HAD RECEIVED A COPY FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF GOVERNOR COLON'S ACTUAL LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND, SO, WAS VERY FAMILIAR WITH THE MATTER. HE IS IN FAVOR OF VOTING FOR A POSTPONEMENT IN ORDER TO OBSERVE THE WAY THE PUERTO RICAN VOTE WILL COME OUT ON NOVEMBER 2. MINISTER MAHABIR IS QUITE INFLUENTIAL WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND I AM CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC THAT HE POSSIBLY CAN PERSUADE THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO TO FAVOR VOTING POSTPONEMENT. HE AGREED TO CALL ME LATER AT MY HOME THIS EVENING TO TELL ME THE RESULT OF HIS MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER. I ALSO ASKED HIM IF HE WOULD CONSIDER IT ADVISABLE FOR GOVERNOR COLON TO MAKE A TELEPHONE CALL TO THE PRIME MINISTER. HE AGREED TO ADVISE ME IN THIS MATTER WHEN HE CALLS LATER TODAY.

4. WE AT LEAST HAVE ONE FRIEND AT COURT WHO IS STRONGLY ON OUR SIDE. I HOPE IT WILL TIP THE SCALES IN FAVOR OF A VOTE TO POSTPONE.
FAY

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